

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of tracing signalling messages of a subscriber in a mobile communication system which comprises functional entities for subscriber mobility management, the method comprising

transmitting and receiving signalling messages in a functional entity, receiving a trace command in said functional entity, the command indicating the tracer and identifying at least one subscriber whose signalling messages are to be traced,

starting tracing which comprises sending to the tracer a copy of a signalling message in response to the reception or transmission of a signalling message related to the subscriber to be traced, wherein the copy of the signalling message sent to the tracer is identical to the signalling message of the subscriber.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the trace command also indicates the type of the signalling message to be traced, and the copy of the signalling message is sent only if the signalling message is of the type to be traced.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein tracing starts from the start message of a dialogue related to the subscriber to be traced.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein tracing of the subscriber's signalling message stops in response to the fact that the dialogue which started tracing ends.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: receiving a stop command of tracing in the entity, the command indicating the subscriber whose signalling message tracing is to be stopped, and stopping tracing of the signalling messages related to said subscriber.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the signalling messages of the MAP protocol are traced.

7. (Currently Amended) A mobile communication system comprising subscribers, at least some of the subscribers being able to roam within the coverage area of the system,
one or more network elements in which signalling messages are received and transmitted to manage subscriber mobility,
operating means for giving instructions to the network element, wherein
the operating means are arranged to give a trace command to the network element, the command indicating the tracer and identifying at least one subscriber whose signalling messages are to be traced,
the network element is arranged to send to the tracer a copy of signalling messages related to the subscriber in response to the trace command, wherein the copy of the signalling message sent to the tracer is identical to the signalling message of the subscriber.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 7, wherein
the trace command also indicates the type of the signalling message to be traced, and
the network element is arranged to copy the signalling message related to the subscriber to be traced if the signalling message is of the type to be traced.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 7, wherein
the signalling messages to be traced are messages of the MAP protocol, and
the network element is arranged to start sending copies of the signalling messages related to the subscriber in response to the dialogue of the MAP protocol which starts after the trace command and is related to the subscriber to be traced.

10. (Currently Amended) A network element of a mobile communication system which receives and transmits signalling messages to manage subscriber mobility, the network element comprising
reception means for receiving a trace command, which indicates the tracer and identifies at least one subscriber whose signalling messages are to be traced,

separation means for separating the signalling messages of the subscriber to be traced from other signalling messages, and

means for sending to the tracer copies of the signalling messages related to the subscriber to be traced, wherein the copy of the signalling message sent to the tracer is identical to the signalling message of the subscriber.

11. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 10, wherein the trace command also indicates the type of the dialogue to be traced, and the separation means are arranged to separate the signalling messages that belong to the dialogue of the type to be traced from the signalling messages of the subscriber to be traced.

12. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 10, further comprising an MAP entity which is responsive to the reception means and comprises separation means and means for sending the copies.